Author's response to reviews

Title: Randomized controlled phase I/II study to investigate immune stimulatory effects by low dose radiotherapy in liver metastases of colorectal cancer

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Dear Mrs. C. Chap,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “Randomized controlled phase I/II study to investigate immune stimulatory effects by low dose radiotherapy in liver metastases of colorectal cancer” by C. Reissfelder et al., which we submit for review as an article in *BMC Cancer*.

The presented study describes a clinical phase I/II trial in patients with liver metastasis from colorectal cancer with scheduled resection. The liver metastases will be irradiated two days prior to surgery using external beam radiotherapy. As primary endpoints we will determine the active local radiation dose leading to metastasis infiltrating T cells as a surrogate parameter for antitumor activity. Secondary objectives include local tumor control, survival, treatment toxicity as well as quality of life of the patients. Further, frequencies of tumor reactive T cells in blood and bone marrow will be correlated with blood cell transcriptomics and plasma-proteomics.

To our knowledge this is the first clinical study to validate the influence of external beam radiotherapy on tumor infiltrating T cells incolorectal liver metastasis. We are therefore confident that these findings will be of high interest to the readership of *BMC Cancer*.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best personal regards,

Jürgen Weitz